

09/762126

JCO d PCT/PTO 02 FEB 2001

P5276b

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor Michihiro Nagaishi, et al. Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: Herewith

Title: Document Categorizing Method, Document Categorizing Apparatus, And Storage Medium On Which A Document Categorization Program Is Stored

**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.10**

"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number: EL700476068US

Date of Deposit: February 2, 2001

I hereby certify that the attached transmittal letter and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Dated: February 2, 2001

*Ann F. George*  
Ann F. George

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination please amend the above identified application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 32, line 9, change "can know" to --to know--.

On page 35, line 7, change "into which clusters and see the degrees" to --into which other clusters and the degrees--.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend Claims 3-11 and 13 as follows:

3. (Amended) A document categorizing method according to Claim 1, wherein said cluster merging process is performed such that [in what] the manner in which feature elements, which characterize respective clusters under consideration as to whether they should be merged or not, appear in [the] said respective clusters under consideration is examined, and cluster merging is performed in accordance with the manner in which the feature elements appear.